



US Army Corps  
of Engineers

Sacramento District  
1325 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

# Public Notice

Public Notice No. 199450301

Date: October 7, 1994

In Reply Refer to the  
above Public Notice No.

Comments Due:  
November 7, 1994

## TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

**SUBJECT: Scoping of Issues:** An application for a Department of the Army permit under authority of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act has been received from Kennecott Utah Copper to expand their existing tailings impoundment pond. The Corps has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be necessary before a permit decision is made. Comments on the scope of the EIS and the significant issues to be addressed are being sought. A Public Scoping Meeting was held on September 19, 1994. This Public Notice is to provide additional opportunity for comment.

**APPLICANT:** Kennecott Utah Copper, 8362 West 10200 South, P.O. Box 525, Bingham Canyon, UT 84006-0525

**LOCATION:** The project area is approximately 30 miles southwest of Salt Lake City, Utah. It lies south of Interstate 80 and north of Highway 201 in Township 1 South, Range 2 West, Sections 4, 5, 6; Township 1 South, Range 3 West, Sections 1, 2, 3, 9, 10, 15, 16 (see the enclosed maps).

**PURPOSE:** Kennecott has identified two primary needs of the proposed project. The first is the need for additional tailings storage capacity. The existing impoundment is near capacity and has storage for 0.3 to 0.4 billion tons more of tailings. Kennecott expects to produce another 1.9 billion tons of tailings over the life of the mine. The expansion of the tailings impoundment would provide for this additional storage.

The second need identified by Kennecott is for a seismic upgrade of the north embankment of the existing impoundment. The north embankment may be subject to failure during a seismic event. The proposed project would reinforce the structural integrity of the embankment and provide the necessary stability.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Kennecott is proposing to expand their existing tailings impoundment by 3,500 acres. The expansion would take place on the north side of the existing facility. Impoundment height could eventually reach 250 feet. The north expansion would also require relocation of the Union Pacific railroad line, relocation of the C7 ditch, a new pipeline bridge, relocation of utility and powerlines, the construction of a new



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bridge on Highway 202 over the relocated railroad lines, and modification of Interstate 80 on and off ramps at the Garfield Interchange.

A potential mitigation area has been selected by Kennecott. The mitigation site lies on the north side of Interstate 80 opposite of the north expansion area. The site consist of approximately 2,500 acres comprised of upland and wetland habitat types. The mitigation concept, as proposed by Kennecott, includes the enhancement and preservation of 1,113 acres of wetlands and the creation and restoration of an unspecified amount of wetland.

**AREA DESCRIPTION:** The area proposed for the north expansion consists of upland, wetland and former industrial sites. The upland habitats are primarily saltgrass and greasewood communities. Wetland types include playa, emergent marsh and open water. The former Morton Salt properties and the Chevron Phosphate Plant are the industrial sites.

A large breeding colony of California gulls occupies the west side of the Morton Salt property on what were previously Morton Salt's intake and concentrator ponds. Other wildlife species in the area include various species of shorebirds, waterfowl and passerine birds.

**ALTERNATIVES:** Kennecott has identified 5 other alternative sites: Barney's Canyon, Coon Canyon, Dry Fork/Carr Fork, Tooele/Carr Fork and Stockton. All Sites are located in the Oquirrh Mountains. These alternatives, as well as others that may be identified, will be analyzed by the Corps of Engineers pursuant to the 404 b(1) guidelines contained within 40 CFR Part 230.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, consideration of



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property ownership, and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

For activities involving 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge does not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria, a permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines it would be contrary to the public interest.

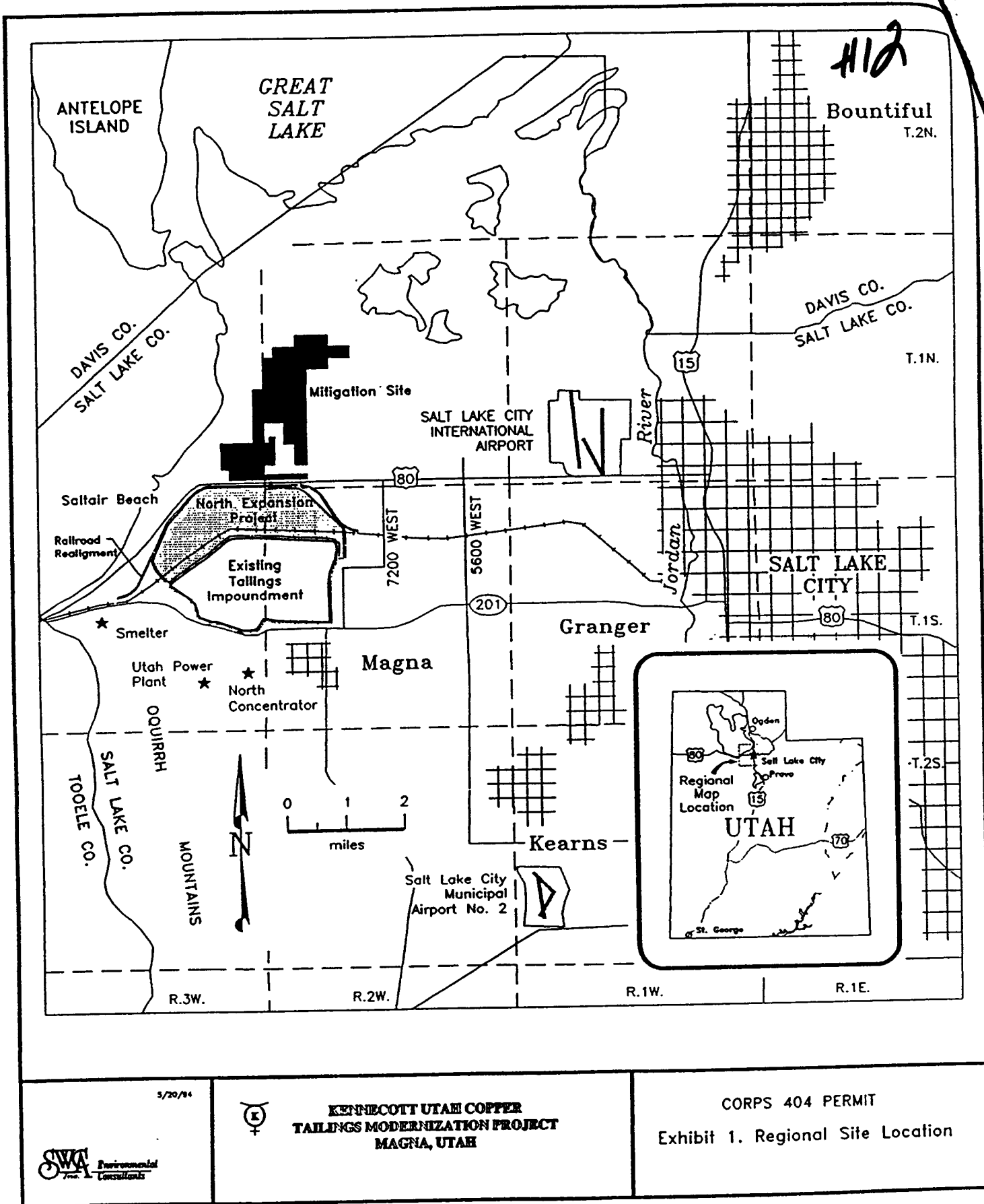
The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties concerning the significant issues to be evaluated in the EIS. Comments will be used in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Interested parties are invited to submit written comments **on or before November 7, 1994.**

If additional information is required, please contact Mr. Michael Schwinn, 1403 South 600 West, Suite A, Bountiful, UT, 84010, telephone (801)295-8380.

John N. Reese  
Colonel, Corps of Engineers  
District Engineer

Enclosures: Vicinity and project maps

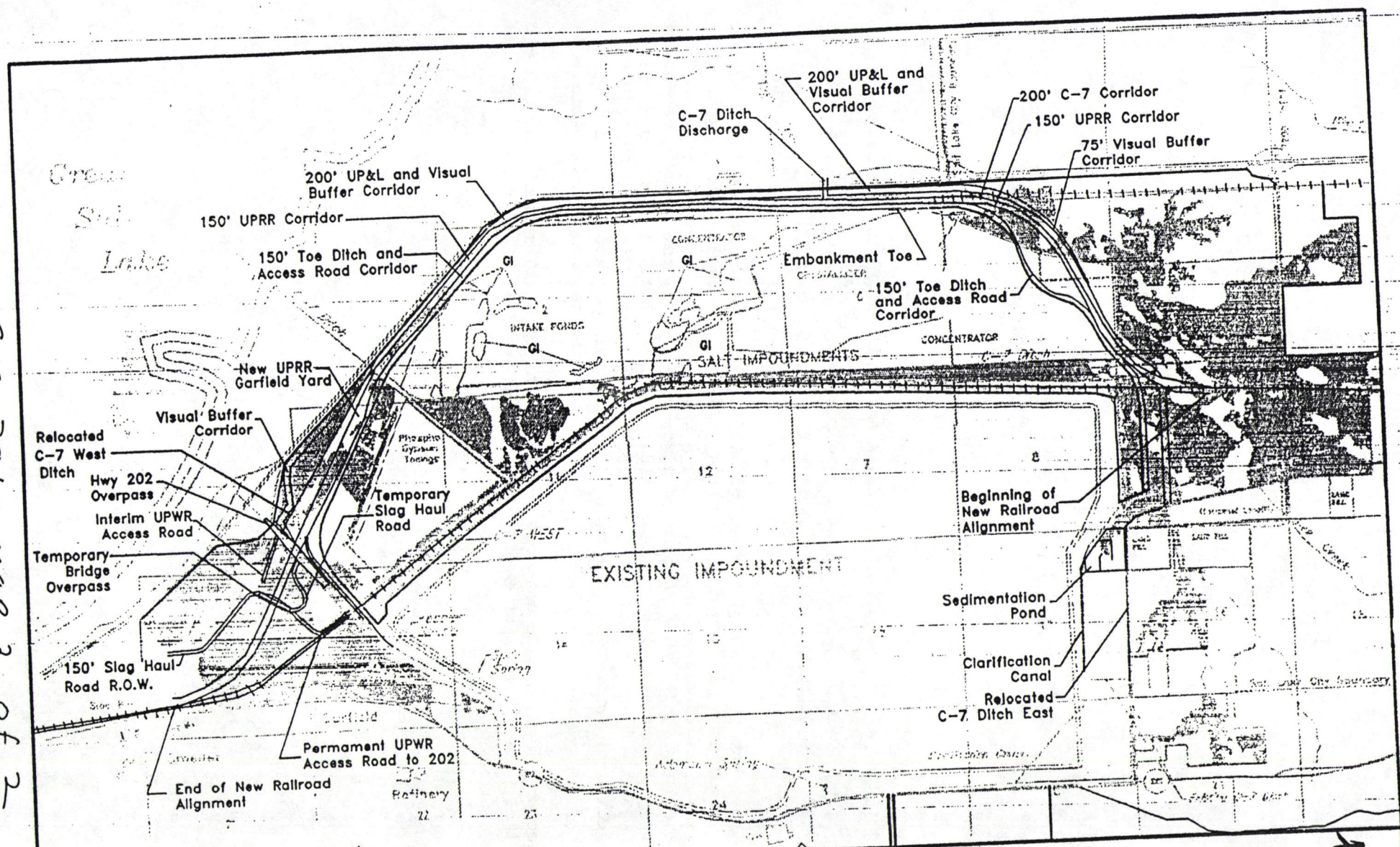




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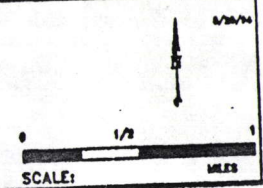


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NOTE: (GI) Gull Colony Impoundments

- POTENTIAL STATUS**
- Jurisdictional (Includes SP, WL, OW, OB)
  - Non-Jurisdictional (Includes UM, GI Areas)



**KENNECOTT UTAH COPPER**  
TAILINGS MODERNIZATION PROJECT  
Magna, Utah

Exhibit 2. Potential Jurisdictional Waters of the U.S.



